In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 19 and 22, without prejudice, and amend claims 17, 20 and 27 as follows:

Claims 1-16 (canceled).

17. (currently amended): An apparatus for blocking and releasing a door lock of an electrical appliance, comprising:

- a blocking and release unit having a blocking state for blocking a locked door lock of an electrical appliance and a release state for enabling unlocking of the door lock and comprising an actuator, which effects, upon activation, a crossover from the release state to the blocking state if the blocking and release unit is in the release state and a crossover from the blocking state to the release state if the blocking and release unit is in the blocking state, and

- an emergency release unit ~~have~~ having an idle state and a working state and comprising an actuator, which effects, in response to ~~of~~ the crossover of the blocking and release unit into the blocking state, a crossover from the idle state into the working state and allows, in an abnormal operating state of the electrical appliance, a crossover from the working state into the idle state, wherein the emergency release unit in the event of the crossover from the working state into the idle state brings the blocking and release unit into the release state, and wherein the emergency release unit includes a spring as a force generating element for effecting the crossover from the working state into the idle state.

18. (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the emergency release unit effects the crossover from the idle state into the working state.

19. (canceled).

20. (currently amended): An apparatus for blocking and releasing a door lock of an electrical appliance, comprising:

- a blocking and release unit having a blocking state for blocking a locked door lock of an electrical appliance and a release state for enabling unlocking of the door lock and comprising an actuator, which effects, upon activation, a crossover from the release state to the blocking state if the blocking and release unit is in the release state and crossover from the blocking state to the release state if the blocking and release unit is in the blocking state, and

- an emergency release unit having an idle state and a working state and comprising a force-generating element, which effects, in response to the crossover of the blocking and release unit into the blocking state, a crossover from the idle state into the working state and an actuator, which effects, in an abnormal operating state of the electrical appliance, a crossover from the working state into the idle state, wherein the emergency release unit in the event of the crossover from the working state into the idle state brings the blocking and release unit into the release state, and wherein the emergency release unit includes a spring as a force generating element for effecting the crossover from the working state into the idle state.

21. (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the emergency release unit comprises an energy supply device for the actuator of emergency release unit, which device is designed to supply energy to the actuator of emergency release unit for activating the latter in the event of abnormal operation of the electrical appliance.

22. (canceled).

23. (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, wherein the blocking and release unit assumes the blocking state by means of a working connection to the door lock in response to the locking of the latter.

24. (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, wherein the blocking and release unit in a locked state of the door lock assumes the blocking state in a controlled manner.

25. (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, wherein the blocking and release unit assumes the release state in an operating state of the electrical appliance, for which an unlocking of the door lock is desirable and/or permissible.

26. (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, wherein the emergency release unit assumes the working state by means of a working connection to the blocking and release unit in response to the crossover of the latter into the blocking state.

27. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, wherein the emergency release unit ~~(14)~~ assumes the working state in a controlled manner when the blocking and release unit is situated in the blocking state or before the blocking and release unit assumes the blocking state.

28. (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, wherein during normal operation of the electrical appliance the emergency release unit assumes the idle state in response to the crossover of the blocking and release unit from the blocking state into the release state.

29. (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, wherein the actuator of the emergency release unit is a heat-sensitive element, a thermoelement or a wax motor.

30. (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, further comprising a release device for the emergency release unit, which device in dependence upon parameters characterizing an abnormal operating state of the electrical appliance allows a crossover of the emergency release unit into an idle state.

31. (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, further comprising a connecting link guide.

32. (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, further comprising a connecting link guide, wherein the emergency release unit comprises an actuating element engaging the connecting link guide.

33. (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, further comprising a connecting link guide, wherein the emergency release unit comprises an actuating element engaging the connecting link guide and the blocking and release unit comprises a blocking and release element, the actuating element engaging the blocking and release element during the crossover from the working state into the idle state.

34. (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, further comprising a connecting link guide, wherein the emergency release unit comprises a detent pawl engaging the connecting link guide in the working state and releasing the connecting link guide in the idle state.

35. (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, further comprising a connecting link guide, wherein the blocking and release unit comprises a locking slide and the connecting link guide is arranged on the locking slide.

36. (previously presented): Apparatus according to claim 17 or 20, further comprising a connecting link guide, wherein the blocking and release unit comprises a locking slide, the connecting link guide is arranged on the locking slide and the emergency release unit comprises a detent pawl engaging the connecting link guide in the working state and releasing the locking slide in the idle state.